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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/467,569	12/20/1999	RAJESH SUNDARAM	6487/54045	2549

7590 03/17/2003

COUDERT BROTHERS
600 BEACH STREET
THIRD FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

EXAMINER

SCHNEIDER, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2182

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/467,569

Applicant(s)

SUNDARAM ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D Schneider

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on 1/16/03 has been disapproved. A proper drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The correction to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. Specifically, in Figs. 5A, 5B, 6A, and 6B should be labeled as prior art, as only that which is old is shown.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant admitted prior art in further view of Kampe et al. (U.S. Patent 5,953,010). With regards to claim 1, the applicant discloses several features of the computer to be common, including the system having a visual display (page 1, line 23), an exterior serial bus port that is very commonly a USB port (page 1, line 21), and an operating system that monitors the USB bus topology and that control access to the USB (page 1, line 28-29). The applicant further discloses that the operating system creates a visual display whenever a USB device is plugged or unplugged (page 3, line 4-6), and that this is accomplished because the operating system has some message handling capabilities (Figure 11 A&B), which distribute messages to the appropriate applications. This

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includes taking the depiction of the mouse cursor and changing it to an hourglass icon in order to inform the user that the system is busy (page 3, lines 4-6), and then back to the original cursor symbol when the system is again ready for use. The applicant fails to describe the known operating system generating the configuration messages and the descript notification to the user that configuration is in progress and completed. The Kampe et al. reference details the notification of user through a computer resident program that creates displays to update the status of events (column 7, lines 51-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the notification system of Kampe et al. with the applicant disclosed prior art, in order to create a system which will notify the user promptly of the progress of a reconfiguration of the USB topology.

5. With regards to claim 2, the applicant admits that it is common in the art to have a computer system that uses message handling to send messages to applications (Figure 11), and that these applications include a mouse controller that creates visual representations of the user movements. The applicant further describes that the messages include changing the appearance of the cursor to indicate that the system is busy and that it is again available for normal use. There is no specific mentioning of the operation of the message handling system, or the state determination unit. The Kampe et al. reference covers these details more specifically and also includes more rigorous discussion of the display and processing. The Kampe et al. reference teaches the hooking and receiving of the messages, and determines what type the message it is (column 7, lines 11-13). With regards to claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, these messages include the beginning, milestone, and completion of event status updates (column 7, lines 55-63), and displays are generated for each of these messages to notify the user of the current status. It

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, to combine the applicant disclosed prior art with Kampe et al. to create a system and method which notifies the user when a change in the computer topology is detected, a reconfiguration is starting, taking place, and finished, so that changing the number or type of USB devices attached to the computer is less likely to cause a bus crash or system failure.

6. With regards to claim 4, the applicant admits that it is common in the art to use the USB standard port as the serial bus port (page 1, lines 18-19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, to use a USB port with the disclosed system to take advantage of the plug and play features of the USB standard.

7. With regards to claim 5, 9, and 10, the applicant admitted prior art discloses that compound hubs (Figure 4) such as the Fujitsu Universal LAN Hub® (Figure 5) are known, they can be used to replicate the function of a mouse port, a serial port, a printer port, and a keyboard port, and that they can be connected to the computer case through a universal serial bus port via a serial cable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention, to use a compound hub with the combined system of the applicant disclosed prior art and Kampe et al. for the replication of peripheral device ports to reduce the number of connections to the computer case.

8. With regards to claim 6, combined system of the applicant admitted prior art and Kampe et al. fails to teach the inclusion of an audio signal indicative of the status of the configuration. However, it was well known in the art at the time of invention that audio signals are used in conjunction with the operating system and other applications as a method of getting the attention of the user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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invention, to use the combined system of the applicant admitted prior art and Kampe et al. with a speaker and an audio signal indicative of the status of the configuration in order to better alert the user to the configuration process.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 1/16/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The AAPA teaches that it is conventional for a computer system to display an icon, such as an "hour glass", when a new device is plugged into the computer system. The Applicant states that this system is deficient in that the icon is not exact in the information that is conveyed to the user. The Kampe reference teaches the use of progress icons to produce a simple and user-friendly indication of the progress of a startup. The rejection that it would have been obvious to combine the AAPA with Kampe to provide clear and specific indication to the user indicating the status of the device configuration process.

10. Applicant also states that the operating system modules, which generate the icon, have a time delay that limits the system. Applicant asserts that Kampe also has delays caused by the intercepting of the messages, and remapping of the messages to an icon. This argument is not persuasive to overcome the rejection. Kampe teaches the intercepting, or hooking, of the messages and subsequent generation of an iconic display. There is no more delay introduced by Kampe than by Applicant as taught in the discussion of Fig. 12. The Applicant system intercepts the messages, analyzes the states, and generates the user indication. Kampe teaches a system that intercepts messages, determines the condition indicated by the message, and generates an icon (column 6, lines 38-46). The words promptly and immediate are relative terminology, and are not given any standard in the specification to measure there terms of degree.

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11. Applicant also cites a portion of the Kampe reference which states that the progress updates are produced "every few seconds" and are therefore not applicable to the instant invention. However, Kampe also teaches that messages are generated for milestone events, such as event beginning and completion, and different icons being generated and displayed for these events (column 7, lines 55-63). Progress indicators of time are therefore not limiting, but rather a supplemental feature.

12. These arguments are applied to all the independent claims, and are not persuasive. Further, the dependent claims are also not allowable for the same reasons.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

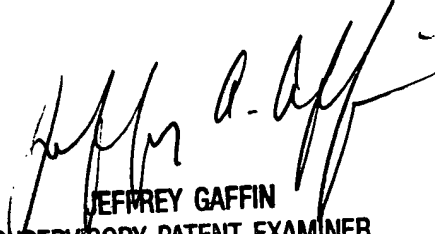
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Schneider whose telephone number is (703) 305-7991. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on (703) 308-3301. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

JDS
March 12, 2003


JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100